

Appl. no. 10/596, 837
Inventor: Bell, D. A

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on line 17 of page 4 with the following:

Figure 1 shows an example network in which content can be delivered to portable devices 200, 210. Content is stored at a service provider of a service provider 100. Portable devices 200, 210 can communicate with the service provider 100 via a connection which is made across networks 300, 310, and 350. Two examples of wireless access networks are shown. Network 310 represents a cellular network, such as one based on GSM or UMTS 315, with switching centres 311 and base transceiver stations (BTS) 312. Network 350 represents a wireless local area network (LAN) or personal area network (PAN) which connects to network 300 via a gateway 351/transceiver 352. The wireless connection 355 can be of any suitable type, such as the IEEE 802.11 family of protocols or Bluetooth. The network 350 may represent a wireless access point, such as at an airport or other public place. It will be appreciated that the network connecting the portable devices 200, 210 to the service provider 100 can take many other forms and the detail is not important to the present invention.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on line 22 of page 8 with the following:

Figure 4 shows the main features of a first embodiment of equipment at a service provider 100. Media content is stored on a server 130. Typically, server 130 comprises an array of storage devices. Delivery of content from the server 130 is controlled by a controller 110. Selected content is delivered to a processing unit 150. The processing unit 150 comprises an audio encoder 151 and a video encoder 152. The encoder units 151, 152 encode the data of the selected content according to format requirements specified by the controller 110. The resulting stream of data is multiplexed, by mux 155, and converted into a suitable form for transmission over network 300. Although media content can be stored in server 130 for selection on demand, it can alternatively be received from a live feed 135. The live feed 135 may represent, for example, a live radio

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or video broadcast. In use, the controller 110 can instruct the processing function 150 to select a different delivery format for the same item of content, in response to a request received from a portable device 200, 210. Preferably, the change to the new delivery format is as seamless as possible. A controlled transition from a first to a second format can be provided by causing delivery of the content in the first format to end at the same point in the item of content as the delivery of the second format begins.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on line 8 of page 9 with the following:

Figure 5 shows an alternative embodiment of equipment at the service provider. Data is stored, on server 130, in a plurality of different formats. The formats can represent different delivery bit rates. As previously, selection of the particular format of the content is controlled by a controller 110. In use, the controller 110 can select a different format of the same item of content, in response to a request received from a portable device, and instruct the server 130 to deliver the content in the new format, via mux 155. Preferably, the change of format is as seamless as possible by coordinating a change between corresponding points, such as a frame number, in the two versions of the item of content.